

Dear FCC commissioners and Chairman Powell,

The decision by Sinclair Broadcasting to force their stations to air "Stolen Honor", an anti-Kerry documentary, days before the election is a clear violation of the requirement of fairness by media outlets.

The FCC is charged with ensuring that the public airwaves are used in a balanced manner, and that if a partisan opinion is aired a counterbalance is also aired. Sinclair, however, clearly has a one-sided partisan agenda in their action. Their refusal to air a counterbalance to this program shows that they hold the FCC, the principle of public airwaves, and the American public in contempt.

Sinclair Broadcasting should be immediately held accountable by the FCC and halted from their planned action. Chairman Michael Powell and the commissioners need to heed the call sent by the 85 members of the House of Representatives and insist that Sinclair present a counterbalanced view to the partisan view espoused in "Stolen Honor." To do anything less would expose the chairman and commissioners as, minimally, derelict in their sworn duties.

In Germany, in the 1930es, the media became a tool of the Nazi regime which resulted in a catastrophe previously unknown to humankind. For the proud and independent media of the U.S. to become a partisan instrument of any party, ignoring (or being allowed to ignore) the fairness doctrine of the FCC puts the U.S. on potentially the same horrific road.

The FCC has an essential role in the preservation of democracy in our United States. Please take immediate action to halt the unfair partisan attempt by Sinclair Broadcasting to influence voters with no counterbalancing opinion. Not only is the credibility of the FCC at stake, but indeed, the fabric of our democracy, as well.

Thank you,
Peter Wahrhaftig